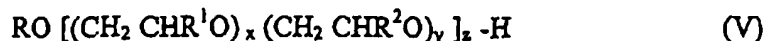


- 16 -

## Claims

1. Composition comprising alcohol alkoxylates of the general formula (V).



5 wherein the residue RO is derivable from a mixture of alcohols ROH, being essentially primary alcohols, essentially consisting of

(a) from more than 20 to 80 % by mass of alcohols that are linear and aliphatic and comprise 8 to 20 carbon atoms,

(b) from more than 10 to 80 % by mass of alcohols that are aliphatic and comprise  
 10       - 8 to 20 carbon atoms, and  
          - 1, 2 or 3 carbon atoms are tertiary carbon atoms whereas  
          - none of the two carbon atoms in the 1 or 2 position relative to the OH  
           group is a tertiary carbon atom and

(c) up to 25 % by mass of alcohols are different to (a) and (b) and comprise 8 to 20  
 15 carbon atoms,

wherein for all alcohols according to (a), (b) and (c)

- at least 80 % of the tertiary carbon atoms related to the total of all tertiary carbon atoms in the alcohol mixture are not directly adjacent,  
 - the alcohols according to (a), (b) and (c) supplement one another essentially to  
 20 100 % by mass and

wherein for the alcohols (b) and (c) that may comprise alkyl branching

- at least 80 % of the alkyl branches are methyl and/or ethyl and

$R^1$  and  $R^2$  are independent of one another and optionally different for each  $z$ , selected from the group consisting of

25 H and linear aliphatic C1 to C3 hydrocarbons with the proviso that  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are not the same for one  $z$ ,

$x$  and  $y$  have independent of one another and optionally different for each  $z$  values from 1 to 10 and

$z$  has a value of from 1 to 5.  
 30

2. Composition according to claim 1 wherein

$x$  is from 1 to 10, preferably from 2 to 6,

$y$  is from 1 to 10, preferably from 2 to 6,

$z$  is from 1 to 2, preferably 1, and

35

- 17 -

$R^1$  is H and  $R^2$  is methyl, ethyl or propyl or  
 $R^1$  is methyl, ethyl or propyl and  $R^2$  is H.

3. Composition according to at least one of the preceding claims wherein the alcohol mixture comprise independently of each other
- 40 to 80 % by mass of alcohol (a),
  - 40 to 80 % by mass of alcohol (b) and/or
  - 10 to 20 % by mass of alcohol (c).
4. Composition according to at least one of the preceding claims wherein alcohols (a), (b) and/or (c) comprise independently from each other 9 to 16 and more preferably 10 to 14 carbon atoms and in particular 12 to 13 carbon atoms.
5. Composition according to at least one of the preceding claims wherein for alcohols (b) 1 or 2 carbon atoms are tertiary carbon atoms and independently none of the three carbon atoms in the 1, 2 or 3 position relative to the OH group is a tertiary carbon atom.
6. Composition according to at least one of the preceding claims wherein for alcohols (b) none of the two, preferably none of the three, carbon atoms at the end of the chain are tertiary carbon atoms.
7. Composition according to at least one of the preceding claims wherein at least 95 % of the tertiary carbon atoms relative to the total of all tertiary carbon atoms in the alcohol mixture are not directly adjacent.
8. Composition according to at least one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one x or y is equal to or greater than 2 and preferably x and y are from 2 to 10 .
9. Composition according to at least one of the preceding claims wherein the alcohols ROH are derivable from olefins obtainable by Fisch-Tropsch Synthesis via hydroformylation.

10. Composition according to any of the preceding claims wherein the composition comprises the alcohol alkoxylates of claim 1 in concentrations of up to 50 %, preferably from 0.1 to 20 % and more preferably 0.2 to 15 % by weight.

5

11. Composition according to at least one of the preceding claims wherein the composition additionally comprises other anionic, nonionic and/or cationic surfactants, or mixtures thereof.

10

12. Composition according to claim 11 wherein the additional anionic surfactants comprise sulfonates and/or sulfates and in particular C9 to C16 alkylbenzolsulfonates, C12 to C18 alkyl sulfates, C12 to C15 alcohol ether sulfates or butylglycol sulfate and/or saturated C12 to C18 fatty acid soaps.

15

13. Composition according to claim 11 wherein the additional nonionic surfactants comprises adducts of ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide, of alkylphenols, fatty acids, fatty amines and/or fatty acid amides and/or adducts of ethylene oxide to C8 to C18 fatty alcohols, preferably of 3 to 15 mols of ethylene oxide.

20

14. Use of the composition according to at least one of the preceding claims as low-foaming, foam-suppressing, and anti-foam surfactants.

25

15. Use of the composition according to at least one of the claims 1 to 13 in laundry detergents, in machine dish wash detergents, in rinse aids, in hard surface cleaning detergents, in car cleaners, in bottle washing detergents, in metal cleaning, as textile or leather additives and/or in spray cleaning.

30

35